

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Cox Family for its patriotism and courageous efforts to promote freedom and democracy. I invite my colleagues to join me in conveying deep gratitude to the Cox Family.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM
"SINGAMERICA" COMMEMORATION PROJECT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 262, the National Anthem "SingAmerica" Project, and to bring to the attention of my colleagues this wonderful, new national initiative to commemorate American patriotic music and the role it has played in our history. This new initiative will involve several exciting music-related patriotic programs over the next 3 years.

The National Anthem "SingAmerica" project is designed to invigorate and inspire the American people to a greater appreciation of their patriotic musical heritage. Through this project, we will be able to renew our appreciation for the patriotic music that so movingly expresses our core national sentiments. The members of the National Association for Music Education, in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution, and with support from the American Sportscasters Association, are already actively pursuing the laudable goals of the project.

The National Anthem "SingAmerica" project includes a series of activities calculated to bring the music, words, and sentiments of the Anthem and our nation's patriotic songs to everyone and to energize the participation of students and adults alike in this essential expression of patriotism. America's youth will give voice to our national anthem and be able to sing it proudly, accurately, and with a full understanding of its rich text. The American Sportscasters Association will be working to increase the emphasis on our national anthem at major sporting events, reaching many of those who otherwise would not have this musical experience. The National Association for Music Education will release a CD with patriotic music played by the Marine Band, complete with a history of this music's role in our nation's development. Teachers' guides will be distributed across the nation to help educators bring the practice and meaning of this music to our nation's students.

All of this activity will culminate on June 14, 2006, when the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History unveils the newly restored Star Spangled Banner. This event plans to include history's largest performance of the National Anthem with millions of participants from around the country joining thousands of high school band and chorus members on the National Mall to celebrate the display of the restored Star Spangled Banner, the Flag that inspired the National Anthem.

Even more than producing these rousing patriotic events, the National Anthem "SingAmerica" project is a catalyst for all Americans to experience a greater understanding and appreciation of our patriotic music history. It will also remind us of the

countless sacrifices made by so many and of the courage displayed by all Veterans' who have served our country with great honor and pride.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I am proud to introduce H. Con. Res. 262 and to honor the flag and the song that are the symbols of America. I call upon my colleagues for their unanimous support in passing the SingAmerica Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on November 5, 2003, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote on rollcall No. 609 on H.R. 3365, the Fallen Patriots Tax Relief Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MEIJER INC.
AND UNITED PARCEL SERVICE
FOR REACHING OUT TO IRAQI
ORPHANS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the compassionate actions of two Michigan businesses for reaching across the globe to touch the lives of orphaned children living in an Iraqi orphanage.

Leaders at Meijer Inc. and United Parcel Service learned that soldiers in the U.S. Army 101st Airborne stationed near Mosul, Iraq, were helping nearly 70 children in a nearby orphanage.

Meijer, a large supermarket/department store, immediately agreed to donate several large cartons of toys for the children. United Parcel Service supported the project, providing additional funds for toys.

In September, the toys were shipped to soldiers at the 101st mobile military hospital near the orphanage and this past week, they were distributed to the children.

These two generous organizations are to be commended for their efforts that not only help the individual children but also impact the relationships our military men and women are building with the citizens of Iraq.

The long-range impact of this compassionate act by Americans is immeasurable. As these children grow up, they will remember the care and love of Americans who came to free their nation from tyranny and give them a future with hope.

Mr. Speaker, we wish to extend congratulations to Meijer Inc. and United Parcel Service for their generosity and for being willing to reach across geographic and cultural borders to express their care and concern for children in need.

We are honored to recognize their accomplishments and ask that our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join in recognizing these Michigan businesses for their humanitarian efforts.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. LIONEL
A. KAPLAN, ESQ.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the esteemed Mr. Lionel A. Kaplan, ESQ, a man devoted to his community. On November 10, 2003 The Orthodox Union's Institute for Public Affairs, which serves the Orthodox community as the central voice for public policy advocacy and religious liberties, will present Mr. Kaplan with the National Distinguished Leadership Award.

Mr. Kaplan's extraordinary devotion to Israel and his love of the Jewish people have propelled his rise to the top levels of leadership in the American Jewish community. In 1988, Mr. Kaplan joined the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee, AIPAC, one of the leading pro-Israel lobby groups, as chairman of the Princeton/Mercer Area, a position he held until 2002. During those years, he also served as a member of the AIPAC Executive Committee; Member of the New York Regional Board; New Jersey State Chairman; Member of the National Board of Directors; and National Development Chairman. In addition, Mr. Kaplan became President of AIPAC from 1998–2000 and Chairman of the Board from 2000–2002. Throughout his career in AIPAC, he has always been known for his skills as a consummate fundraiser for pro-Israel causes.

Mr. Kaplan's contributions to his community do not stop with AIPAC. In the United Jewish Appeals, UJA, Federation, he served as a Member of the UJA National Young Leadership Cabinet, as a leadership and fundraising trainer at the UJA National Training Center, and has served as Vice President of the Jewish Federations of New Jersey. In his immediate community, Mr. Kaplan has assumed a variety of roles, including Campaign Chairman and President of the Jewish Federation of Princeton, Mercer, and Bucks Counties. Among his other community services, he has been the chairman of the New Jersey "Jerusalem 3000" Committee, which planned and coordinated events for the 3000-year anniversary of Jerusalem and Co-Chairman of the New Jersey Israel Communications.

Mr. Kaplan has a graduate degree from Harvard University and has received his J.D. from Rutgers University. He is a licensed attorney in the Firm of Joseph D. Kaplan & Son, P.C., in Trenton where he has been a partner since 1972. Mr. Kaplan is also a member of the American, New Jersey, and Mercer County Bar Associations. He and his wife reside in Princeton, New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kaplan has demonstrated what it means to be a true contributor to one's community. The extensive list of his tireless efforts shows a genuine compassion and devotion to public service. Accordingly, I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in honoring Mr. Lionel A. Kaplan, ESQ.